

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**Modern Languages (MODL)
TEC Classrooms**

Title

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Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

**Department of Modern Languages,
College of Liberal Arts**

Organization

Title: Modern Languages (MODL) TEC Classrooms Date: 1/10/2017
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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this grant is to convert up to four regular classrooms on the fourth floor of Griffin Hall to Technology Enhanced Classrooms, each with a podium, computer, projector, screen, speakers, and white board. The fourth floor of Griffin Hall is home to the Department of Modern Languages (MODL), which offers courses in French, German, and Spanish as well as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In the realm of language instruction, most current language programs for beginning and intermediate level courses presuppose technology-enhanced classrooms, and TEC classrooms will enrich our language courses with the dynamic active content offered through updated educational resources. Currently, over 1000 students per semester are enrolled in beginning and intermediate language courses and thus stand to benefit from updated and improved instructional technology. All Liberal Arts (i.e., English, History, Communications, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology) majors are required to take a foreign language for up to 4 semesters, thus technology-based improvements in language courses will benefit all students of the College of Liberal Arts. Fourth-floor classrooms are also often used by instructors from other Liberal Arts disciplines, such as English, History, and Humanities, who most often prefer classrooms in which instructional technology is available, so upgrades also stand to provide benefits beyond MODL.

A. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

The purpose of this grant is to convert up to four regular classrooms on the fourth floor of Griffin Hall to TEC, “Technology Enhanced Classrooms,” with technology resources similar to but slightly less extensive than those included in SMART classrooms. These fourth-floor classrooms currently have no instructional technology; a STEP grant would equip them with a podium, computer, projector, screen, and speakers. Additionally, the installation of white boards to replace the chalkboards on the wall closest to the podium would limit dust particles on the equipment to help extend the lifetime of the electronics. Ideally, classrooms 401, 402, 403, 406, 423, and 424 would all be equipped in this way.

According to the UL Lafayette website, “SMART Classrooms and TEC rooms continue to be very popular with our students and are aligned with the new University Strategic Plan,” and adding more such technology in Griffin Hall will benefit Liberal Arts programs that make use of the classrooms in question and students enrolled in courses enriched with active content through updated educational resources. Such upgrades will also offer instructors more possibilities for fine-tuning courses to accommodate diverse student learning needs and styles as well as helping accessibility for students with disabilities. Audio-visual media has an increasingly important role in the modern world, and experience with technology in the classroom will improve the skills and effectiveness of our instructors and students moving forward in their professional careers.

The fourth floor of Griffin Hall is home to the Department of Modern Languages (MODL), which offers courses in French, German, and Spanish as well as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). All Liberal Arts (i.e., English, History, Communications, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology) majors are required to take a foreign language for up to 4 semesters, thus improvements in instructional technology in language courses will benefit all students of the College of Liberal Arts. Fourth-floor classrooms are also often used by instructors from other Liberal Arts disciplines, such as English, History, and Humanities, who most often prefer classrooms in which instructional technology is available, so upgrades also stand to provide benefits beyond MODL.

During MODL prime teaching hours (MWF 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.), between seven and nine courses at the 101, 102, and 201 (beginning and intermediate) levels, with 25-28 students per class, are taught in each 50-minute time block. TEC classrooms will allow language instructors to enhance the classroom experience for the 800+ students per day enrolled in these courses as well as the 300+ students per day enrolled in the 201 and 202 (intermediate) courses that meet twice per week. In the realm of language instruction, most current language programs for beginning and intermediate level courses presuppose technology-enhanced classrooms, with textbooks including videos and other computer-based tasks as integral elements of daily classroom activities. Increasing instructors’ ability to easily employ such new developments can help maximize the effectiveness of the instructional resources available, creating a more dynamic interface and greater engagement between the students and the second-language content. Specifically, language instruction can benefit from “live” content because it allows instructors to enhance the classroom experience with exposure to speakers of the languages being learned, introducing students to populations, countries, and cultures associated with the language in the “real world” and offering activities that take the language and the course beyond the textbook. Streaming content can promote student engagement and language development by encouraging active comprehension of the language as it is spoken in different regions of the world (not just by the teacher) and fostering communicative interactions. Dynamic content can also go farther to attract interest and encourage

students to explore unknown aspects of the francophone, hispanophone, and germanophone world. For the smaller but no less important number of students (i.e., majors and minors) enrolled in advanced 300- and 400-level language courses, including graduate courses in French and Spanish, access to advanced content such as current daily newspapers, online archives, and digital humanities will facilitate research and discussion in the classroom setting.

Staying up to date with current technology and being able to incorporate instructional advances via the TEC classrooms provided by the current grant can help our Liberal Arts programs stay competitive among peer institutions and help attract strong students to UL Lafayette as we continue to grow our presence and influence in Louisiana higher education. Giving students the opportunity to develop their second language skills and cultural understanding in such varied and progressive ways can also serve to strengthen the Liberal Arts education at UL Lafayette and create more well-rounded and marketable graduates who will move on to productive careers in local, national, and international fields.

B. Projected lifetime of enhancement

The lifetime of the project is 5 years. However, the project falls under STEP Sustainability, which would keep the equipment maintained and updated after the initial 5-year time frame.

C. Person(s) responsible for:

- I. Implementation: Allen Latour
- II. Installation: Allen Latour
- III. Maintenance: Allen Latour
- IV. Operation: Liberal Arts faculty
- V. Training (with qualifications): Allen Latour, IT Lab Technician for the College of Liberal Arts

Previous funded STEP projects:

Tamara Lindner:

- Fall 2016: MODL TEC Classrooms
- Fall 2014: MODL Language Resource Center Replacement (HLG 109)

Allen Latour:

- Fall 2016: Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement, SPSS Software Renewal, & Vision Pro Software Installation
- Fall 2016: Modern Languages TEC Classrooms (2)
- Fall 2016: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Fall 2016: V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement
- Spring 2016: Communication Department Mac Lab Update
- Spring 2016: History, Geography and Philosophy TEC Classrooms
- Fall 2015: Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke-Hawthorne Hall
- Spring 2015: New PSYC Instructional, Testing, & Experimental Lab Upgrade
- Fall 2014: H.L. Griffin 307 Computer Classroom PC Replacement
- Fall 2014: PSYC Instructional, Testing, and Experimental Lab
- Spring 2013: FGM 101 Interactive Classroom Enhancement

Budget Proposal

1. **Equipment** **\$84,000* – Four TEC classrooms at \$21,000 per classroom.**
Includes podium, computer, projector, screen, speakers, electrical, Ethernet wiring, security, etc.
and \$1,000 per classroom for whiteboards to replace blackboards closest to the podium.

2. **Software** **\$**

3. **Supplies** **\$**

4. **Maintenance** **\$**

5. **Personnel** **\$**

6. **Other** **\$**

TOTAL: **\$126,000***

*Ideally, all four fourth-floor regular classrooms would be converted to TEC classrooms in order for all classes to benefit from the technology. However, funding for three (\$63,000 budget) or even two (\$42,000 budget) TEC classrooms would be helpful and much appreciated.